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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/960,498	09/24/2001	Masakazu Tanaka	12-008	7238

23400 7590 07/13/2005

POSZ LAW GROUP, PLC  
12040 SOUTH LAKES DRIVE  
SUITE 101  
RESTON, VA 20191

EXAMINER

BOS, STEVEN J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1754

DATE MAILED: 07/13/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/960,498

Applicant(s)

TANAKA ET AL.

Examiner

Steven Bos

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 February 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7,9-16,19-32 and 42-49 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,5,9,11-16,20,22,23,26-32,48 and 49 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2-4,6,7,10,19,21,24,25 and 42-47 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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In claims 7, 47, "kind" is awkward and should be replaced with – metal --. In claim 15, -- a – needs to be inserted between "with" and "metal".

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1,5,9,11,22,23,30,32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 1, "the catalyst metal" lack(s) proper antecedent basis in the claim(s).

In claim 5, "the catalyst metal" lack(s) proper antecedent basis in the claim(s).

In claim 9, "the catalyst metal" lack(s) proper antecedent basis in the claim(s).

In claim 11, "the catalyst metal" lack(s) proper antecedent basis in the claim(s).

In claim 22, "the catalyst that receives catalyst poisoning" lack(s) proper antecedent basis in the claim(s).

In claim 23, "the substrate ceramic" lack(s) proper antecedent basis in the claim(s).

In claim 30, "the substrate ceramic" lack(s) proper antecedent basis in the claim(s).

In claim 32, proper Markush language needs to be used otherwise the claim is indefinite as to its metes and bounds.

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The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 20,22,26-31,48,49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Deeba '910.

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Deeba teaches the ceramic catalyst body comprising a cordierite carrier, which would have a substrate having a crystal lattice since a substrate comprising cordierite is instantly claimed, and therefore would be capable of supporting a catalyst directly on the substrate, the carrier having a catalyst component supported thereon, eg. palladium, platinum, rhodium, and having a trapping component supported on the end face of the carrier to provide a trap layer. See Figs. 2,3, cols. 6,7,9,16,17. The taught Figs. 2,3 are substantially identical to the instant Figs. 4a and 5a. The taught ceramic catalyst body has multiple zones each having catalysts which would perform as decomposition catalysts which are near to catalysts that would receive catalyst poisoning. The carrier has a plurality of fine gas flow passages, ie. pores.

Claims 11-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Naito '835 or WO 99/19060. Naito is an English equivalent of WO 99/19060.

Naito and WO '060 teach the ceramic catalyst body comprising a cordierite carrier, which would have a substrate having a crystal lattice since a substrate comprising cordierite is instantly claimed, and therefore would be capable of supporting a catalyst directly on the substrate, the carrier having catalyst particles supported thereon, the catalyst particles containing a metal on the outer surface thereof. The ceramic carrier has a plurality of pores which directly support the catalyst particles. See Figs. 1,9, cols. 4,9,10 of Naito.

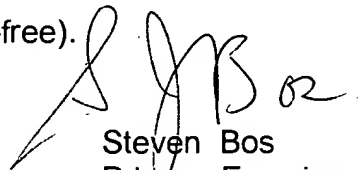
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Applicant's arguments filed February 3, 2005 have been fully considered and are persuasive but they are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steven Bos whose telephone number is 571-272-1350. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8AM-6PM but is on increased flexitime sch.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stanley Silverman can be reached on 571-272-1358. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Steven Bos  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 1754

sjb